

# The Charlotte Jewish Preschool Celebrates Teacher Retention

By Darcy Alban, LCSW, MSW, CJP PTO Co-President

Longevity is one sign of a teacher's commitment to education and contentment with his or her career. Happy teachers make happy children. CJP is honored to have 27% of their current teachers serving in their 14th to 28th year at the school. These teachers possess unique skills, teaching styles, personalities, practices, and backgrounds, yet all demonstrate an inspiring long-term commitment to young learners. The PTO of CJP celebrated Teacher Appreciation week from May 11-15 to honor devoted teachers who guide, teach, and nurture CJP children. As part of the formal Thank You Luncheon, longevity is commemorated and applauded.

Andrea Wilson who teaches in the half-day three days per week 3s program is celebrating a milestone 20 years at CJP this year. Ms. Andrea "has been fantastic ... we wish we could have her for more years," says Bonnie Bornstein mother of Justin. Justin was diagnosed with Selective Mutism, which his mother attributes to underlying anxiety. Ms. Andrea has created a space for Justin to thrive. "He's just comfortable, not nervous about the other kids or the environment," continues Bornstein. She reports how nice it is to see Justin singing Jewish songs and saying the prayers on Shabbat. "He can participate," because of Ms. Andrea's willingness to "go above and beyond." Prior to the start of school this year, Ms. Andrea and the CJP administration were more than pleased to open the doors of CJP to Justin and his psychologist, giving Justin the time he needed

to acclimate to the new setting. He had the opportunity to get used to his surroundings and meet the wonderful professionals who would be teaching him all year. Bornstein adds, Ms. Andrea "gives her children respect, and they are respectful."

Perhaps the best endorsement of a teacher comes from a parent who is also a teacher. Kimberly Isaacson, who teaches in the three days per week half-day 3s class, describes her colleague Carolyn Patterson's ability to know exactly what she needs to do to help each child. Ms. Carolyn has devoted 28 years to teaching generations of CJP families, and naturally "she's seen it all," says Isaacson. Ms. Carolyn's children in the full-day 3s class benefit from an organized classroom, and they know what is expected of them. Isaacson continues about Ms. Carolyn, "She's adaptable—if a kid needs something extra, she's able to identify it. She's able to help each child reach their own potential, because she is able to identify what they need." According to Isaacson, her daughter, Addison, has become much more outgoing as a result of her year with Ms. Carolyn. Ms. Carolyn encourages the children to share with the class, and Isaacson's erstwhile shy child, "has a lot to say now." Ms. Carolyn's nearly three decades of service to her CJP students, not to mention the Charlotte Jewish community at large, ensures a classroom wisdom that junior teachers can only hope to one day obtain.

An article about the long-term CJP teachers would not be complete without the inclusion of

Tootie Broome, CJP Assistant Director and former extended day 2s teacher who has served CJP families for the last 17 years. When asked about her former co-teacher and mentor, Tootie Broome, Elka Bernstein describes a teacher with a special gift for understanding and relating to young children. Bernstein views Broome as a "security blanket," for the children as well as for their parents. During times of stress or other crises like divorce, financial hardship, or the death of a loved one, Ms. Tootie provides a comfort and strength that will see a family through. Broome provided insight and understanding to Elka Bernstein, as a new teacher. Broome continues to offer tactful, honest support and mentorship to the teachers she oversees at CJP. Ms. Tootie not only taught Bernstein much of what she knows about teaching young children, she supported the Bernstein family by teaching their then two-year-old son Jake, as well as her niece Zoe, 17 and 15-year-old nephew, Eli. "My son and my niece will not walk into Hebrew school every Wednesday without seeking her (Broome) out and getting a hug," says Bernstein. As a non-Jewish member of the faculty, Broome has "completely embraced and learned about Judaism," explains Bernstein. Tootie Broome's commitment to early childhood Jewish education, much like the dedicated CJP teachers with decades of experience who surround her, is a boon to The Charlotte Jewish Preschool and to generations of Charlotte Jewish families. ☆



Andrea Wilson celebrates Chanukah.



Ellen Wismuller with Talia Levinson and Silvia Vitner.



Celebrating Purim with Brenda Wren-Terrell.

## CJP Teachers with the Longest Service

|                     |          |   |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| Carolyn Patterson   | 28 years | Extended Day 3s                           |
| Robbie McGinley     | 21 years | Half Day 4s                               |
| Andrea Wilson       | 20 years | Half Day 3s                               |
| Ellen Wismuller     | 18 years | Half Day 4s                               |
| Tootie Broome       | 17 years | former Extended Day 2s/Assistant Director |
| Brenda Wren-Terrell | 14 years | Half Day 2s and 3s                        |



**YIKES!!  
I NEED  
HEBREW HELP!!**

**Call Barbara Feld  
704-341-3680**

**HEBREW TUTORING FOR:**  
Bar/Bat Mitzvah's ♦ Hebrew Readings  
Learning with Special Needs ♦ Adults



Same Great Company,  
New Location in the Heart of Ballantyne

**13526 Johnston Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277**

Mickey Gold  
Realtor®  
704.779.5859  
mickeyau@aol.com



Richard Roskind  
Realtor®  
704.905.6175  
rcrokind@aol.com

[www.GoldRoskindHomes.com](http://www.GoldRoskindHomes.com)

**♪ You'll Have Cool Air At Your House Tonight!® ♪**

"We're open for service  
everyday. Call now!"

**\$20 Off  
Any Repair**

Must present coupon at time of service. Not valid with  
other offers. Valid Monday - Sunday, 8am-6pm



**Dewey Jenkins**  
Supreme Commander of Cool Air®



**704-357-0484**

[www.MorrisJenkins.com](http://www.MorrisJenkins.com)

Proud Sponsor of the  
**Levine  
Children's  
Hospital**